

भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

विदेश मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

China Division अनुभाग—Section C/125/4/65—JP

टिप्पणियाँ/पत्राचार—Notes/Correspondence

विषय—Subject

Loh Salhe Sterred Question D. No. 4656
No. 623 for 29.3.65 and Rajya Sabha Sterred Qn 3
for 17/65 Shri Bapin 22.9.65 regarding

Netaji being alive in Siberia
* Answered by Engage

रिकार्ड ए/बी—Record A/B

रिकार्ड सी—Record C

में नष्ट किया जाय—Destory in

(Notes-1-4 ~~CORR~~ Pages
CORR-1-21 Pages)

नोट की जाय—To be noted

नोट की जाय—Not to be noted

अनुभागीय नोट बुक में—In Sectional Note Book

अनुभाग अधिकारी/अधीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर

Initial of S. O./Supdt.

अधिक के हस्ताक्षर—Initials of Clerk

पूर्व संदर्भ—Previous References

Keef
16/12/15

Declassified

उत्तर संदर्भ—Later References

Declassified

(गौतम गुप्ता)
(GAUTAM GUPTA)
उप सचिव (ए एवं आर.एम.)
Dy. Secretary (A&RM)
विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली
Ministry of External Affairs
New Delhi

MOST IMMEDIATE.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

Subject:- Alleged existence of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 'Akoticks' jail in Siberia.

Will the Ministry of External Affairs please refer to the enclosed copy of starred question D. No.4656 proposed to be asked in the Lok Sabha by Shri Bagri on the subject noted above? The subject matter of the question is the concern of the Ministry of External Affairs who had an enquiry conducted into the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. In view of the findings of the majority of that committee to the effect that Netaji Bose died as a result of an air-crash on the 16th August, 1945, it is for the Ministry of External Affairs to consider whether a fresh enquiry into the alleged existence of Netaji Bose is at all necessary. In this connection attention is invited to their u.o. note No.C/551(25)/64-IP, dated the 11th January, 1965. Ministry of External Affairs may therefore kindly deal with the proposed question (which is addressed to this Ministry) and intimate the Lok Sabha Secretariat of their acceptance under intimation to this Ministry. On the 29th March, 1965, the Prime Minister also answered in the Lok Sabha starred question No.623 on this subject.

C. S. Kapoor

(G.S. Kapoor)
Under Secretary.

Ministry of External Affairs (Shri B.P. Agarwal, U.S.)
M.H.A. U.O. No. 22/31/65-Poll.II dt. 17th July, 1965.

pp. put up papers.

B. P. Agarwal
17.7.65

USCI wanted to see previous Parl. questions regarding Netaji. Our records do not show we handled any Parl. Questions on the topic during 1963, 64 and 65. In 1962, there were two Parliament Questions. These may then be seen at Slips 'A' and 'B' below.

Slip 23/7 USC I

(2): /SSM

Recd at S.M. 001
on 14.7.65

Slip
19/7

Slip 32462

US (CI)

S. I. 19/7

pp. 6-7/W

act

P. 455/1965

10821-9/65
19/7

-2-

From prepage.

As desired by USC, an acceptance
of the Permanent Question has been conveyed
to the Home Mng. and an L. false sheet.
Also a copy of the Loh false Proceedings
in Question No. 623 answered by PM.
on 29.3.65, referred to in the Home
Mng.'s note on prepage, has been
placed in this file at slip 'A'.

USC may kindly see.

Eps
7/6/65.

USC

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
CHINA DIVISION

.....

No. C/125/4/65/JP-Part

D. 11906-C/65 (3) FR

The main file on the subject is already under submission to USCI who may kindly see for urgent consideration of the matter since the Lok Sabha Secretariat have urged that our views in regard to the admissibility or otherwise of the Parliament Question be conveyed to them by 13.8.65.

11.8.65.

✓ USCI

A D.F. A. is placed below
DS(c) may kindly see

DS(c)

11/8/65

DS(c)

If we are to recommend that the question be disallowed the relevant clause of the procedure may be quoted.

11/8

US(C)I

Clauses xii and xv of para 41 of the 'Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha' seem to cover this.

According to these clauses, the right to ask a question ~~may~~ is governed, inter alia, by the conditions that 'it shall not repeat in substance questions already answered or to which an answer has been refused' and that 'it shall not ask for information set forth in accessible documents or in ordinary works of reference.'

11.8.65.

✓ USCI
DS(c)

Pl. fair & put up for signature.

Westoff

China Division

12/8

12/8

(4): Issue

2629/054/65

15775/USP/65
17/8

D. 12501-0/65 ----- (5) : FR

"Pl. let me see on file immediately."

SA B. P. Agnew
1578

Submitted on file as desired.

Sp2
26/8/65.

See by usci.

2072412501-21
1578

(1)

QUESTION FOR THE LOK SABHA

60824-465
19/7

O.I.H.

Starred D.No. 4656

Notice was received on the 30.6.65

Ministry to which the day has been allotted HOME AFF-
AIRS.

The question will be put down for the
sitting on the :- 22.9.65

* SHRI BAGRI:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be
pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is alive and is a prisoner in 'Akotics' jail, Siberia in Russia;
- (b) whether the Government propose to hold and enquiry in the matter; and
- (c) if so, by when?

(2)

MOST IMMEDIATE
PARLIAMENT QUESTION

No.C/125/4/65-JP
Government of India
Ministry of External Affairs
(China Division)

.....
Dated: August 6, 1965.

*P. imma
low
6/8*

ISSUED

6-8-65

Subject: Alleged existence of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 'Akoties' Jail in Siberia - Lok Sabha Starred Question D.No. 4656.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Ministry of Home Affairs U.O.No.22/31/65-Poll.II, dated July 17, 1965, on the abovementioned subject and to say that this Ministry accept the transfer of the Lok Sabha Starred Question D.No. 4656 regarding Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, due for answer on 22-9-1965.

(B.P. AGARWAL)
UNDER SECRETARY

Ministry of Home Affairs (Poll.II Section)

Copy forwarded for information to the Lok Sabha Sectt., New Delhi.

*B.P. Agarwal
@ 8.65*

(B.P. Agarwal)
Under Secretary (C-I)

.....

LOK SABHASTARRED QUESTION NO. 623TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29TH MARCH, 1965.NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSEQUESTION

*No. 623

SHRI RAMESHWAR TANTIA:
SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHHAVAIYA:
SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA:
SHRI S.M. BANERJEE:
SHRI YASHPAL SINGH:
SHRI P.R. CHAKRAVERTI:
SHRI K.N. TIWARY:
SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:
SHRI P.L. BARUPAL:
SHRI SURYA PRASAD:
SHRI VISHWA NATH PANDEY:
SHRI SARJOO PANDEY:
SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA:

Will the Prime Minister

be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he told the Pressmen during his visit to Varanasi on the 27th December, 1964, that Government would contact the West Bengal Government to investigate that Netaji was alive and that the Shoulmari Ashram Sanyasi was Netaji; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

ANSWER

THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA
(SHRI LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI)

(a) In the course of his informal talk with pressmen at Varanasi on the 27th December, 1964, the Prime Minister said that the Sanyasi of the Shoulmari Ashram had himself declared several times that he was not Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The Prime Minister added that he would, however, again contact the Chief Minister of West Bengal in the matter.

(b) The Government of West Bengal have made enquiries in the matter and have found that the Sanyasi of the Shaulmari Ashram is not Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Q 623

Shri S.M. Banerjee: May I know whether the attention of the Prime Minister has been drawn to a documentary film No. 8168 on Nehruji's Day, where it is clearly shown that a person resembling Netaji cent per cent was present?

Shri Kapur Singh: 80 per cent.

Shri S.M. Banerjee: If so, may I know what steps have been taken by the Government to see who was that gentleman? I have got the photograph and if you permit me, I will lay it on the Table.

The Prime Minister (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): I have not seen the photograph. If I see it, then alone I shall be able to say.

Shri S.M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that there are many organisations who on behalf of this Sadhu of the Shaulmari Ashram have requested the Government to declare boldly that if Netaji comes to India, he will not be regarded as anybody else but an honourable representative of this country; (Interruptions)- and though he may be regarded as a war criminal by other countries, India will defend him in this country?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I am sorry I did not quite follow all that Mr Banerjee said.

Mr. Speaker: He want to know if India would always welcome Netaji if he appears, as an honourable citizen and patriot of this country?

Shri S.M. Banerjee: There is a fear in the minds of ~~any~~ many people, who still believe that Netaji is alive, that he is regarded as a war criminal by the Britishers. They want a clear declaration from the Government regarding this.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: He is talking of the past history, when the British Government was here. There can be absolutely no doubt- in regard to all those who belonged to the INA, in fact, we have tried to do whatever is possible for them here. ~~we~~ We have respected them and we have also tried to help them and rehabilitate them. So far as Netaji Subash Chandra Bose is concerned, of course, there is absolutely no doubt in the mind of anyone in this country that he would be welcome here as of our greatest heroes.

Shri P.R. Chakraverti: May I know whether it is a fact that this Sanyasi of Shaulmari Ashram has reiterated again and again that he has nothing to do with Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and has threatened to go to the court, saying he will even spare Prime Minister it it is again suggested that he is Netaji?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri : This is absolutely correct that he has completely denied it, and I am very sorry this matter is repeated again and again and these questions are put in this house.

(5)

Q&A (29-3-65)/Chaitra 8, 1987 (Sake)
Uncorrected- Not for publication

(Q. 623- Contd.)

Shri Nath Pai: I am very sorry, Mr. Speaker, that you try to stop further supplementaries by saying that again and again this question comes up. It is twenty years now since Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose laid down his life for our country. This kind of superstition is being spread and our people are being exploited. What steps are the Government taking to stop the credulity of our people being exploited in this manner (Interruptions).

Shri Hem Barua : That is why I say there is more political reaction.

(ends)

(Q. 623 ctd)

श्री क० ना० तिवारी: अभी तक नेता जी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस के बारे में कोई मर्चवा केन्द्रीय सरकार ने जांच नहीं है और रिपोर्ट की है कि वे रोमरकेश में मर गये थे और जबकि यह शैलमारी आश्रम के सन्ध्यासी ने इस में साक्ष्य इन्कार किया है कि वह सुभाष बोस नहीं हैं तब फिर क्या कारण है कि प्राइम मिनिस्टर ने फैसला किया है कि फिर तहकीकात की जाय और वहाँ के चीफ मिनिस्टर को कहा है कि फिर इस की तहकीकात की जाय ?

श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री: जब लोग जिद पर जिद करते हैं जाय तो हमने सिर्फ यह कहा कि पश्चिमी बंगाल के मुख्य मंत्री अपने इस विचार का फिर से समर्थन करें, फिर से उसे दुहराये कि शैलमारी आश्रम के सन्ध्यासी सुभाष बोस नहीं हैं और वही चीफ मिनिस्टर और वेस्ट बंगाल ने एक प्रेस कान्फ्रेंस में किया है।

श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय: कुछ समाचार पत्रों और देश के अनेक आदमियों के दिमाग में यह बात है कि शैलमारी आश्रम के सन्ध्यासी नेता जी सुभाष बोस हैं तो क्या सरकार ने इस के सम्बन्ध में अभी सुभाष बाबू के परिवार वालों से पूछा है कि क्या शैलमारी आश्रम में रहने वाले साधू सुभाष चन्द्र बोस हैं ?

श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री: जी नहीं, इस बारे में काफी जांच पड़ताल कर ली गई है और यह कह दिया गया है कि उनका उससे कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है।

श्री सखू पाण्डेय: शैलमारी आश्रम के साधू के, सुभाष बाबू होने के बारे में सुभाषवादी जनता के संगठन की ओर से बहुत जमावा प्रचार हो रहा है तो सरकार इस बात का पता क्यों नहीं लगाती कि यह शैलमारी आश्रम के साधू कहां के हैं अथवा कहां के रहने वाले हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय: शैलमारी आश्रम के वह साधू स्वयं कहते हैं कि मैं सुभाष चन्द्र बोस नहीं हूँ।

श्री सखू पाण्डेय: यह बताया जाय कि वह कहां के रहने वाले हैं और उनका घर कहां है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय: वह साधू हैं और वह कहते हैं कि मैं सुभाष चन्द्र बोस नहीं हूँ।

श्री सखू पाण्डेय: देश यह जानना चाहता है कि यह शैलमारी आश्रम के साधू कहां के रहने वाले हैं इस बारे में सरकार पड़ताल करके बतलाये जिनके कि बारे में इस तरह का भ्रम फैलाया जा रहा है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय: वह साधू हैं।

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that a legend has grown around this Sanyasi in the Shoulmari Ashram and some people are positive that he is Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose incognito- there are some people who say like that- a fact that has been creating a lot of political reaction in this country, why is it that the Central Government instead of instituting an enquiry into this matter has left it entirely to the State Government?

Mr. Speaker: That has been clarified already (Interruptions).

श्री मौर्य: जब एक विशेष कमेटी वादशीय सुभाषचन्द्र बोस की मृत्यु के बारे में जांच करने के लिए बनी थी तब क्या वाकई उनकी मृत्यु उस हवाई दुर्घटना में हो गई थी और जब जांच फ़ाइनल करने के बाद यह मालूम होगया कि नेताजी की मृत्यु उस डबलजिहाज के क्रैश में हो गई थी तब कुछ विशेष व्यक्ति, कुछ विशेष पत्रकार और कुछ विशेष पत्र नेताजी के जीवित होने के बारे में जो इस तरह का भ्रम देश में फैला रहे हैं और उनके जीवित होने का दावा कर रहे हैं तो सरकार उनके खिलाफ़ क्या भावेष्य में कोई कदम उठायेगी ?

श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री: जहां तक हमारा खयाल है, देश भर में सामंतौर पर जो बात इस बारे में गवर्नमेंट ने कही है वह मानी जाती है, सब यह भ्रम और कुछ लोगो में है या कुछ उस को फैलाना चाहते हो तो उनके खिलाफ़ हमें कोई कार्रवाई करने की ज़रूरत नहीं मालूम होती है।



प्रधान मंत्री सचिवालय
PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI-11

No. 2(64)/56-65-PM

6 August, 1965.

Forwarded with the
compliments of Shri K.L. Gupta
Under Secretary, Prime Minister's
Secretariat.

Shri B.P. Agarwal,
Under Secretary (China),
Ministry of External Affairs,
New Delhi.

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 623

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29TH MARCH, 1965.

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

Can 37/A

QUESTION

*No.623 SHRI RAMESHWAR TANTIA:
SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHHAVAIYA:
SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA:
SHRI S.M. BANERJEE:
SHRI YASHPAL SINGH:
SHRI P.R. CHAKRAVERTI:
SHRI K.N. TIWARY:
SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:
SHRI P.L. BARUPAL:
SHRI SURYA PRASAD:
SHRI VISHWA NATH PANDEY:
SHRI SARJOO PANDEY:
SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA:

Will the Prime Minister

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- (a) whether it is a fact that he told the Pressmen during his visit to Varanasi on the 27th December, 1964, that Government would contact the West Bengal Government to investigate that Netaji was alive and that the Shoulmari Ashram Sanyasi was Netaji; and
- (b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

ANSWER

THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA
(SHRI LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI)

- (a) In the course of his informal talk with pressmen at Varanasi on the 27th December, 1964, the Prime Minister said that the Sanyasi of the Shaulmari Ashram had himself declared several times that he was not Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The Prime Minister added that he would, however, again contact the Chief Minister of West Bengal in the matter.
- (b) The Government of West Bengal have made enquiries in the matter and have found that the Sanyasi of the Shaulmari Ashram is not Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

लोक सभा

तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ६२३

२६ मार्च, १९६५ को उत्तर लिये जाने के लिए

नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस

प्रश्न

- ६२३ { श्री रामेश्वर टांटिया
{ श्री हुकम चन्द कक्काय
{ श्री ओंकार लाल बैरवा
{ श्री सोमो० बनर्जी
{ श्री यशपाल सिंह
{ श्री प्र० रं० चक्रवर्ती
{ श्री क० ना० तिवारी
{ श्री हरि विष्णु कामत
{ श्री प० ला० बारूपाल
{ श्री सूर्य प्रसाद
{ श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय
{ श्री सरजू पाण्डेय
{ श्री विमूति मिश्र

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उन्होंने २७ दिसम्बर, १९६४ को वाराणसी में अपने दौरे के दौरान पत्रकारों से कहा था कि सरकार पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार से इस बात की जांच करने के लिए कहेगी कि क्या नेताजी जीवित हैं तथा शौलमारी आश्रम का संन्यासी नेताजी है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है अथवा की जायेगी?

उत्तर

श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री

प्रधान मंत्री

(क) २७ दिसम्बर, १९६४ को वाराणसी में पत्रकारों से हुई अपनी अनौपचारिक बातचीत के दौरान प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि शौलमारी आश्रम के संन्यासी ने कई बार स्वयं घोषित किया है कि वे नेताजी सुभाषचन्द्र बोस नहीं हैं। प्रधान मंत्री ने आगे चल कर कहा कि वे, फिर भी, पश्चिम बंगाल के मुख्य मंत्री से इस बारे में सम्पर्क करेंगे।

(ख) पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार ने इस मामले में पूछ-ताक की है और यह मालूम किया है कि शौलमारी आश्रम का संन्यासी नेताजी सुभाषचन्द्र बोस नहीं हैं।

(11)

NOTE FOR SUPPLEMENTARIES TO STARRED QUESTION NO.623
TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON MARCH 29, 1965,

In response to the public demand that all the facts relating to the last stages of Netaji's life should be enquired into and made known, an Enquiry Committee was appointed by the Government of India in the Ministry of External Affairs in April, 1956. The Committee consisted of Shri Shah Nawaz, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, (elder brother of Netaji) and Shri S.N. Maitra, Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The report of this Committee ^{which} was signed by Shri Shah Nawaz and Shri S.N. Maitra was released for publication in September, 1956. The Government of India accepted the report. The third member, namely, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose neither signed the report nor submitted a minute of dissent. After laying a copy of this report on the table of the House on 11.9.1956, the late Prime Minister made a statement in the Lok Sabha in which he said inter alia that Government felt that the evidence adduced in the report was practically overwhelming and should be accepted. The conclusion reached by the Enquiry Committee was that Netaji met his death as a result of an air crash at Taihoku air-field in Formosa on August 18, 1945 and his ashes are now at Renkoji temple in Tokyo.

2. Subsequently certain elements, particularly in West Bengal and especially some members of Netaji's family have tried to keep alive the controversy by maintaining that Netaji is still alive. However, as Panditji said in one of his letters, apart from the evidence collected by the Enquiry Committee, the length of time that has elapsed is itself confirmatory of the fact of Netaji's death. (This subject, however, concerns the Ministry of External Affairs and if any detailed questions are asked in the supplementaries about the Enquiry Committee's report, the Member concerned

(12)

can be requested to give notice of a separate question to the Minister of External Affairs.)

3. ^AThe controversy about the Sanyasi of Shaulmari Ashram being Netaji was ~~start~~ started in 1962 as a result of certain articles published by Shri Uttam Chand Malhotra. Soon after this, Shri Surendra Mohan Ghosh, M.P. went to Shaulmari Ashram and stayed there for two days. During his stay, he spent 5 hours with the Sadhu. It was his definite view that the Sadhu is not Netaji. Shri Ramani Ranjan Das, Secretary of the Shaulmari Ashram publicly declared in October, 1962 that the founder of the Shaulmari Ashram who is generally known as Swami Saradanandaji was not Subhash Chandra Bose nor had he ever had any connection whatsoever with the family in which Netaji was born. A Bengali leaflet published by the Shaulmari Ashram reiterated that the Swami was born of a Brahmin family in East Bengal and was not Netaji. An extract from a Top Secret report received from the Director, Intelligence Bureau in November, 1963 is reproduced below:-

"In his letter, Shri Malhotra has asked the Prime Minister to officially recognise the Shaulmari Sadhu as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. This claim is quite false and the Shaulmari Sadhu himself does not claim any connection with Netaji. Enclosed is a copy of the English translation of the Bengali leaflet published from the Shaulmari Ashram in which it has been categorically stated that Shaulmari Sadhu is not Subhash Chandra Bose. This would falsify Shri Malhotra's claim. But, unfortunately, there are people in India, including some in leading positions in public life, who want to exploit Netaji's name. They have been propagating since the last 14 years that the Netaji was would return. A propaganda was even started when the Chinese invaded our country last year that Netaji was coming with the invading army. This group, whose leadership has been taken by the All-India Subhasbadi Janata, still goes on propagating that the Shaulmari Sadhu is none other than Netaji, though, as I have mentioned above, the Sadhu himself is quite annoyed with this propaganda and categorically denies that he is Netaji."

4. In August, 1964, Shri Amiya Nath Bose invited P.M.'s attention to some correspondence which he had with Panditji and reiterated his demand for a judicial enquiry into the matter. P.M. consulted the Chief Minister, West Bengal who

advised that nothing further could be done. This was made clear by P.M. in reply to a Parliament Question in the Lok Sabha on November 23, 1964. While replying to some Pressmen at Varanasi on 27.12.1964, P.M. reiterated that Government had on many occasions made statements in Parliament about the Sanyasi of Shaulmari Ashram not being Netaji. P.M. also referred to the fact that the Sanyasi had himself said many times that he was not Netaji. He had, however, stated that he would again contact the Chief Minister of West Bengal about the matter. Apparently, P.M.'s intention was that he would request the Chief Minister, West Bengal to reiterate the position in view of the propaganda that was still being carried on in certain quarters. This was done by the Chief Minister, West Bengal in P.M.'s presence at Calcutta on January 12, 1965. While replying to certain Press Reporters the Chief Minister stated that the State Government had made enquiries and found that Netaji was not at Shaulmari Ashram and that the reports to this effect were incorrect. This position was made clear in reply to a Parliament Question in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd March, 1965.

5. It is really surprising that in spite of all that has happened and all that has been stated, some Members of Parliament should persist in regularly pursuing this subject.

(3)

MOST IMMEDIATE

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
(Question Branch)

...

SUBJECT: Starred Question Dy. No. 4686 for 20.9.65

Reference: M/Ex. Aff. O. M. No. C/125/4/65-JP, dt. 6.8.65

D-2689 12/11/65
11-8-65

11906-C/65
11-8-65

Ministry of External Affairs is requested kindly to state the facts regarding the above question (~~copy enclosed~~) with a view to enable the Speaker to decide the admissibility of the question.

Reply is requested by 13.8.65



for UNDER SECRETARY.

Ministry of External Affairs

L.S.S.U.O. NO. SQ. 4686/20.9/65-Q dt. 10.8.65

China

S R
11/8

(4) 15
MOST IMMEDIATE/PARLIAMENT QUESTION

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(China Division)

.....

12/8/65

The Lok Sabha Secretariat may kindly refer to their U.O. No.SQ.4656/20.9.65-Q, dated 10th August, 1965, regarding the Starred Question No. 4656. The facts regarding this question are that in response to the public demand that all the facts relating to the death of Netaji should be enquired into and made known, an Enquiry Committee was appointed by the Government of India in the Ministry of External Affairs in April, 1956. The Committee consisted of Shri Shah Nawaz, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose (elder brother of Netaji) and Shri S.N. Maitra, Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The report of this Committee which was signed by Shri Shah Nawaz and Shri S.N. Maitra was released for publication in September, 1956. The Government of India accepted the report. The third member, namely, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose neither signed the report nor submitted a minute of dissent. After laying a copy of this report on the table of the House on 11.9.1956, the late Prime Minister made a statement in the Lok Sabha in which he said inter alia that Government felt that the evidence adduced in the report was practically overwhelming and should be accepted. The conclusion reached by the Enquiry Committee was that Netaji met his death as a result of an air crash at Taihoku air-field in Formosa on August 18, 1945 and his ashes are now at Renkoji Temple in Tokyo.

Certain elements, particularly in West Bangal and especially some members of the Netaji's family, have been maintaining that Netaji is alive. The Government's position has already been made clear in the Parliament on a few occasions in answers to questions and supplementaries. In answer to the Unstarred Lok Sabha Question No. 743 on 7th May 1962, the late Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs had stated: "The Netaji Enquiry Committee after examining all the evidence, had presented a majority report which established that Netaji had died in an air-accident. The basic conclusions reached by the Committee have never been seriously questioned. Government are satisfied that there is no justification on the basis of available facts for the holding of a further enquiry into the question".

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri

Again on March 29, 1965 while answering supplementaries on the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 623, regarding the suspicion of some people that the Shalmari Ashram Sanyasi was Netaji, the Prime Minister stated: "I am very sorry this matter is repeated again and again and these questions are put in this House".

Regarding the specific point whether Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is a prisoner in the Akoties Jail, Siberia in Russia, it may be

stated that the Government have no information on this, nor do the Government propose to hold an enquiry in the matter.

While bringing the above facts to the notice of the Speaker it may also be mentioned that Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 4656 repeats the substance of previous Lok Sabha Unstarred Qⁿ. No. 743 answered on 7.5.62 in so far as the fact whether Netaji Subhas Bose is alive or not is concerned. Moreover the information is also available in published documents viz. Netaji Enquiry Committee Report and Parliamentary debates, etc.// The admissibility of this question may therefore be considered in terms of clauses XII and XV of para 41 of the Rules governing the admissibility of the questions in Lok Sabha.

The copy of Question No. 4656, received by us from the Ministry of Home Affairs mentions the date as 22.9.65, while the Lok Sabha Secretariat U.O. number being replied to mentions it as 20.9.65. It may please be confirmed that this discrepancy is due to an oversight.

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(P.K. GUHA)
DEPUTY SECRETARY (C)
12-8-1965

Lok Sabha Secretariat (Question Branch), New Delhi.
Min. of E.A. U.O.No.C/125/4/65-JP dated 12-8-65.

.....

(5) 12501-CP/65. (17)
298

Government of India,
Ministry of External Affairs

CONFIDENTIAL

No.F.WI/411(11)/65

Dated the 23rd August, 1965

Dear Shri Venkateswaran,

Thank you for your letter No.196-PS(P)/65 dated the 13th August, 1965 regarding Rajya Sabha Question on whereabouts of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. I enclose, for your information, a copy of reply given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th August, 1965.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Upendra Lal)

Shri A.P. Venkateswaran,
First Secretary,
Embassy of India,
Moscow.

Copy with a copy of Shri Venkateswaran's letter and reply of Rajya Sabha Question forwarded, for information, to:-

1. Shri K.L. Gupta, Under Secretary, Prime Minister's Secretariat, New Delhi.
2. China Division.

Under Secretary (EE)

USC (1)
DS (1)
S.R.
12/11/65
24/8
Pl. let me see on file immediately
25/8
12/11/65

Copy of D.O. letter No. 196-FS(P)/65 dated the 13th August, 1965 from Shri A.P. Venkateswaran, First Secretary, Embassy of India, Moscow to Shri Upendara Lal, Under Secretary (EE), M. E. A., New Delhi.

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Please refer to your letter No. WI/411(11)/65 dated the 7th August, 1965, forwarding the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 1573 by Shri P.C. Mitra regarding the whereabouts of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

2. As you are aware, many years ago the Government of India had appointed a high-powered committee to enquire into the circumstances of Netaji's death and it was established that he died in a plane crash. Government had accepted the Committee's report. On this basis we believe that there should really be no need to verify fanciful stories put out from time to time on the subject.

3. However, in view of what you have mentioned about the question involving the sentiments of the people of Bengal, Ambassador had said that we may take this up very informally with the Soviet Foreign Office. I accordingly brought this story~~xxx~~ to the ~~Soviet Foreign~~ attention of the South Asia Division in the Soviet Foreign Office, where I had called in another connection. The concerned officials had already seen this report in the Indian newspapers and appeared considerably amused. He stated that ~~ix~~ he could only comment in a personal capacity. He said that there was no basis whatsoever in the story and added that he could not escape the feeling that the story was a "mischievous invention".

4. I hope this should be enough for your purposes.

With kind regards,

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 51

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 17TH AUGUST, 1965

STATEMENT ON WHEREABOUTS OF
NETAJI SUBHAS BOSE

QUESTION

*No.51 SHRI P.C. MITRA:
 SHRI G.K. KAPOOR: Will the Minister of External
Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn
a statement made by Dr. Satyanarain Sinha, a former Member
the Lok Sabha, at a public meeting in Calcutta Maidan, in which
he is reported to have stated that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
had been kept in Cell No. 46 in a prison in Siberia; and
(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this
connection?

ANSWER

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DINESH SINGH)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
(b) It will be recalled that an official Enquiring
Committee was appointed in 1956 to investigate the facts
relating to the reported death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
The Committee after examining all the evidence had presented
a report which established that Netaji had actually died in
the air accident in 1945. Government are satisfied that
there is no need to hold further enquiry.

NOTE FOR SUPPLEMENTARIES

(On Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 51 for 17.8.1965)

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Dr. Satyanarain Sinha, a former member of the Lok Sabha is reported to have made a statement in Calcutta in a public meeting that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is at present kept in Cell No.46 of Yakutusk prison in Siberia. Earlier the Hindustan Standard of Calcutta published a series of articles by Dr. Satyanarain Sinha about life and whereabouts of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The author, in these articles, expressed the opinion that the alleged death of Netaji in a plane crash on 18th August, 1945 is a myth. Netaji escaped into Darien in Manchuria in August, 1945. He was taken prisoner by the Chinese Communist forces in 1949 and ultimately taken to Siberia, where he has been lodged in cell No. 46 in Yakutusk city.

An Enquiry Committee was appointed by the Government of India in the Ministry of External Affairs in April, 1956. The Committee consisted of Shri Shah Nawaz, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose (elder brother of Netaji) and Shri S.N. Maitra, Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The report of this Committee which was signed by Shri Shah Nawaz and Shri S.N. Maitra was released for publication in September, 1956. The Government of India accepted the report. The third member, namely, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose neither signed the report nor submitted a minute of dissent. After laying a copy of this report on the Table of the House on 11.9.1956, the late Prime Minister made a statement in the Lok Sabha in which he said inter alia that Government felt that the evidence adduced in the report was practically overwhelming and should be accepted. The conclusion reached by the Enquiry Committee was that Netaji met his death as a result of an air crash at Taihoku air-field in Formosa on August 18, 1945 and his ashes are now at Renkoji Temple in Tokyo.

Certain elements, particularly in West Bengal and

especially some.....2

especiall, some members of the Netaji's family, have been maintaining that Netaji is alive. The Government's position has already been made clear in the Parliament on a few occasions in answers to question and supplementaries. In answer to the Unstarred Lok Sabha Question No. 743 on 7th May, 1962, the late Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs had stated: "The Netaji Enquiry Committee after examining all the evidence, had presented a majority report which established that Netaji had died in an air-accident. The basic conclusions reached by the Committee have never been seriously challenged. The Government are satisfied that there is no justification on the basis of available facts for the holding of a further enquiry into the question".

Again on March 29, 1965 while answering supplementaries on the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.623, regarding the suspicion of some people that the Shalmari Ashram Sanyasi was Netaji, the Prime Minister stated:"I am very sorry this matter is repeated again and again and these questions are put in this House".

Regarding the specific point whether Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is a prisoner in the Yakutusk Jail, Siberia in Russia, it may be stated that the Government have no information on this, nor do the Government propose to hold an enquiry in the matter. Moreover, the information is also available in published documents viz. Netaji Enquiry Committee Report and Parliamentary debates, etc.
